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Teresa Anderson

REQUEST FOR PROVISIONAL APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(c)

MAIL STOP PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is a request for filing a Provisional application for patent under 37 CFR § 1.53(c) entitled Liquid Filter Assembly for Use With Treatment Agent; and, Methods by the following inventor(s):

Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name	First Given Name	Second Given Name
Residence & Citizenship	City	State or Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship
Post Office Address	Post Office Address	City	State & Zip Code/Country
Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name	First Given Name	Second Given Name
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- ☒ Enclosed is the Provisional application for patent as follows: 23 pages of specification, and 6 sheets of drawings.
- ☐ Small entity status is claimed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☒ Payment of Provisional filing fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(k):
 - ☒ Attached is a check in the amount of \$ 160.00.
 - ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

☐ PAYMENT OF THE FILING FEE IS BEING DEFERRED.

4. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees as set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.16 to 1.18 which may be required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Account No. 13-2725.
5. ☐ Enclosed is an Assignment of the invention to _____, Recordation Form Cover Sheet and a check for \$ _____ to cover the Recordation Fee.
6. ☐ Also Enclosed:
7. ☐ The invention was made by the following agency of the United States Government or under a contract with the following agency of the United States Government:
8. ☒ Address all future communications to the **Attention of Randy Hillson** (may only be completed by attorney or agent of record) at the address below.
9. ☒ A return postcard is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,


MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612/332-5300

23552

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Date: _____

March 5, 2004


Randall A. Hillson
Reg. No. 31,838
RAH/mstanger

LIQUID FILTER ASSEMBLY FOR USE WITH TREATMENT**AGENT; AND, METHODS**

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Field of the Invention

The present disclosure relates to liquid filters. It particularly concerns liquid filters which include, within a filter assembly, a construction for controlled release of a treatment agent for the liquid being filtered. A particular use for the assemblies described, would be as re-additization filters for lubrication oil, although principles described can be used in association with treatments of other liquids such as fuel, coolant liquids and hydraulic fluids.

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Background of the Invention

In many engine systems a liquid system is provided which needs to be both filtered and treated with an additive or treatment agent. An example is a lubrication oil system for diesel engines. In some instances, the lubrication oil for diesel engines contains an additive package to extend the life of the oil and to improve engine component protection. The additive package is made up of a variety of chemical compounds designed to perform specific functions in the oil. An example of one of the chemical compounds is zinc dithiophosphate (ZDP), which acts as an oxidation inhibitor in the oil. When the oil is heated in the presence of air (for example in a diesel engine) oxidation occurs, increasing the concentration of organic acids. The ZDP acts to inhibit oxidation, thereby decreasing the rate at which the acid is formed. A measure of the effectiveness of the ZDP in the oil is the "total base number" (TBN). The TBN is an indicator of the amount of acid in the oil. As ZDP becomes used up during engine operation, the TBN changes. At a certain defined TBN level, the oil is generally considered to be too acidic to be left in the engine, and thus needs to be replaced with "fresh" oil.

Diesel engine designs are undergoing changes, as a result of increasing emphasis on reduction of emissions from diesel engines, for example as mandated in the United States by the EPA. In some instances the changes cause acid formation in the oil to be more of an issue with respect to service interval, as compared to diesel engines of the past.

The initial additive package depletes in time. What has been needed has been improvements in approaches that allow for re-addition of the ZDP or similar treatment agents to a liquid (such as oil) under controlled conditions, during normal engine operation.

Summary of the Invention

Filter assemblies are shown, which include a liquid filter cartridge and a treatment agent storage and release system. In the preferred arrangements shown, the treatment agent storage and release system is a separate cartridge from the filter cartridge; both being included in the same housing.

The preferred arrangements shown are for intended, controlled, treatment release. Various techniques and principles are disclosed that can be used separately, or together as shown in the preferred embodiments.

The techniques described herein can be implemented in either spin-on filters or serviceable bowl/cartridge arrangements. The techniques can be applied: (a) in a variety of liquid filters, including, for example, in lubrication filters, hydraulic fluid filters, coolant filters and fuel filters; and, (b) in a variety of specific configurations.

Methods of assembly and use are also provided.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a first embodiment of a filter assembly incorporating principles for liquid treatment, according to the present disclosure; the cross-section being taken generally along line 1-1, Fig. 2.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the assembly of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a top perspective view of a component useable in the assembly of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a bottom perspective view of the same component as Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the component depicted in Figs. 3 and 4 and shown inverted relative to these figures; Fig. 5 being taken along line 5-5, Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 is a bottom plan view of the component depicted in Figs. 3-5.

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view of an alternate embodiment.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary, enlarged, view of a portion of Fig. 7.

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Detailed Description

I. Treatment Agents Used in Liquid Systems - Generally.

The technology presented herein generally concerns liquid systems, such as lubricating oil systems, hydraulic fluid systems, cooling fluid systems or fuel filter systems. The technology more specifically concerns delivery of treatment agents or additives to such systems. Herein the terms "treatment agent," "additives" and variants thereof, are meant to refer to one or more agents released into the fluid or liquid filter stream, with time. An example of a treatment agent would be ZDP as characterized above for a lubricating oil system.

In particular, the techniques described herein involve delivery of treatment agents into liquid passing through a housing of a liquid filter assembly. In general, a liquid filter assembly is an assembly through which liquid flows, with filtering by passage through filter media, in use. The treatment agent is preferably delivered into the liquid, from a source within the filter assembly, during application of principles described herein. That is, in the preferred arrangements characterized herein, an assembly component which includes the treatment agent for delivery is contained within the filter assembly; for example within the housing of a spin-on filter assembly or within the housing or bowl of a bowl/cartridge filter assembly. Such arrangements, characterized in the various embodiments below, will be referred to as filter arrangements which include an "internal" treatment agent storage and release arrangement, container, cartridge or

assembly. Preferred arrangements according to the present disclosure are ones configured to provide for treatment agent delivery into unfiltered liquid; i.e., the treatment agent is delivered into a liquid flow stream before the liquid flow stream is filtered by passage through filter media.

5 Herein the term "immobilized treatment agent" and variants thereof, is meant to refer to the treatment agent in a form in which it is contained in a treatment agent storage and release assembly container or arrangement, before diffusion into the liquid for treatment. In general "immobilized treatment agent" may be in the form of a solid or a gel.

10 Herein the term "erosion surface" when used to refer to "immobilized treatment agent," in an internal storage and release cartridge (assembly or arrangement) is meant to refer to any surface of the immobilized treatment agent which is directly contacted by at least a portion of liquid passing through the filter assembly in use, and thus at which diffusion of the treatment agent into the liquid occurs. That is, an "erosion surface" in this context, is a surface of the immobilized treatment agent which is
15 contacted by liquid, at any given time, during use of the filter assembly.

 The term "mobilized treatment agent" and variants thereof, is meant to refer to the treatment agent once diffused into the liquid to be treated. The term is meant to be applicable regardless of the form of diffusion, for example whether it involves
20 dissolution of the treatment agent, or suspension of the treatment agent. That is, the specific mechanism of diffusion is not meant to be indicated by the term "mobilized" in this context.

 The current disclosure specifically concerns filter arrangements for liquids which include a delivery system for immobilized treatment agent. This disclosure does
25 not specifically concern the treatment agents themselves. The delivery vehicles described herein are particularly developed for use with gel forms of treatment agents, although alternate forms of treatment agents can be used. Gel forms of certain treatment agents have been developed, for example, by Lubrizol Corp. of Wickliffe, OH 44092-2201.

 Several different embodiments of liquid filter assemblies including
30 delivery systems for treatment agents are disclosed. In general, each is an assembly preferably developed to conveniently provide for a controlled rate of treatment agent

release into liquid. In preferred arrangements a controlled variability in rate of treatment agent release into liquid, with time, is provided. In general, the term "variability in rate of treatment agent release into liquid, with time" is meant to refer to the fact that the preferred arrangements allow for an initial release of treatment agent the first rate, and a later release of treatment agent at a different rate. The term "controlled" in this context, is meant to refer to the fact that it is the specific design of the delivery system, which provides for this variability.

The affect of a controlled variability and rate of treatment agent release in the liquid, with time, is, in part, provided by a preferred configuration for the delivery system that allows for different mechanisms of treatment agent release into the liquid, with time. These are generally referred to herein as a "static" mechanism or process; and, a "dynamic" mechanism or process. These terms are used not to refer to the dissolution mechanism of the agent into the liquid, but rather to refer to the nature of liquid flow and liquid contact with respect to the treatment agent.

Specifically, the preferred assemblies described herein are configured to operate a portion of the time with a "static" type of diffusion or flow. During this type of operation, treatment agent is contained within a sub-assembly in such a fashion that there is initially no actual flow of liquid through the sub-assembly during this period of "static" flow operation. Rather, diffusion of the treatment agent through a wall of the sub-assembly and into surrounding liquid is conducted, during this portion of operation. The term "static" is used to refer to the flow or diffusion under this operation, in which there is no actual continuous current of liquid through the sub-assembly, during this portion of operation. In general, during "static" flow operation, the subassembly which includes the treatment agent has liquid flow which enters and exits through the same aperture(s). That is, there is no internal flow channel provided, which allows the liquid to enter one aperture or set of apertures, and then to exit through a second aperture or second set of apertures.

After an initial period of static-type diffusion, in preferred configurations according to the present disclosure, there is a second operation implemented referred to herein as a "dynamic" flow operation. In this type of operation, treatment agent, contained within the sub-assembly, is contacted by a portion of liquid flow directed

through the sub-assembly in use, to pick up treatment agent by diffusion into the liquid flow. More specifically, during this type of operation liquid flow is directed through the sub-assembly by passage into a liquid flow inlet arrangement, and then eventual passage outwardly through a separate liquid flow outlet arrangement. This type of operation is referenced herein as "dynamic" because there is an actual liquid current flow generated through the sub-assembly.

In both the "dynamic" and "static" flow operations, the treatment agent diffuses into the liquid. However, in the dynamic flow operation, treatment agent release can be designed to occur at a relatively fast rate, by comparison to diffusion during an earlier static flow operation, if desired. This will be apparent from the descriptions of the various example assemblies below.

It is noted the number of techniques described herein, to provide for treatment agent release from a sub-assembly within a filter arrangement. The techniques can be applied, to advantage, to arrangements that are not configured for both a period of static flow operation and a period of dynamic flow operation. Thus, the principles described herein can be applied in arrangements that are only configured for dynamic flow operation or are only configured for static flow operation. However the more advantageous applications are as described, in arrangements which provide for a period of operation of each type.

II. Liquid Filter Assemblies Including Treatment Agent Storage and Release Subassemblies Configured for at least a First or Initial Release of Treatment Agent Through a Static Flow Process, and a Second Treatment Agent Release through a Dynamic Flow Process.

A. The Arrangement of Figs. 1-6.

1. Structure.

Referring first to the embodiment of Fig. 1, a liquid filter assembly 1 according to the present disclosure is presented. The liquid filter assembly 1 generally

includes the following components: an outer housing or can 5, a filter cartridge 6, and a treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7. The particular assembly 1 depicted in Fig. 1, is one which contains an "internal" treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7, since the cartridge 7 is contained within an interior 8 of the housing or can 5.

5 For the filter assembly 1 depicted in Fig. 1, the housing 5, filter cartridge 6 and treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 are generally configured or assembled appropriately for a "spin-on" style filter assembly 10. By the term "spin-on style filter assembly" and variants thereof in this context, it is meant that the components are assembled in a overall system which, in use, is spun onto a liquid circulation system of
10 equipment (through threaded engagement), to later be spun off the filter head and be completely replaced, during servicing. This is by contrast to a bowl/cartridge style assembly, for which, periodically, the housing is opened and from which the filter cartridge and/or treatment agent cartridge are removable and replaceable (i.e., are serviceable), while the outer housing or bowl is retained for repeated use. The techniques
15 described with respect to each embodiment can be applied in either a bowl/cartridge-type assembly, or in a spin-on assembly, as desired.

 To accommodate construction as a spin-on style assembly 10, filter assembly 1 further includes top plate 14, inner gasket 15 and biasing arrangement 16. For the particular embodiment shown, the biasing arrangement 16, as is typical for many
20 spin-on filter assemblies 10, is a coiled spring 17.

 For the assembly 10, the top plate 14 is secured within the assembly 1 under a portion of housing 5, in this case under cover piece 18 secured at roll seam 21. The top plate 14 includes entry apertures 23 for flow of liquid to be filtered into annular interior volume 24 of housing 5, eventually to a location between side wall 5a and around
25 the cartridges 6, 7. The top plate 14 also includes threaded exit aperture 25. By the threaded exit aperture 25, the assembly 1 can be mounted onto equipment, for use. Aperture 25 is also an exit aperture for liquid which has been filtered and treated by the assembly 1. Gasket 27 is positioned on cover piece 18 to allow for a liquid tight seal against equipment and around aperture 25, during use.

30 In general, assembly 1 is configured for out-to-in filter flow through the filter cartridge 6. By this it is meant that liquid flow extends through filter cartridge 6 in

the directions indicated generally by arrows 30, i.e., out-to-in, in normal operation. The particular filter cartridge 6 depicted comprises a filter media construction 32, in this instance cylindrical, extending between first and second end caps 34 and 35 and defining an open center 36, in this instance surrounding porous center support or liner 37. (The assembly could alternatively be configured for a reverse in-to-out flow operation of filtering through the filter cartridge 6, if desired.)

The specific materials of the filter cartridge 6 are a matter of design choice. Typically for liquid filters, the filter media 32 will comprise a media of cellulose, a synthetic or a composite of the two. Although alternatives are possible, the media is typically pleated and arranged in a star-shaped (in cross-section) cylindrical form and is either secured in molded end caps, or is secured by potting to metal end caps. For the particular arrangement depicted in Fig. 1, the end caps 34, 35 are metal end caps, 34a, 35a. End cap 34 is generally open, i.e., it has an open central aperture 39, to allow clean fluid to escape from the interior 36 of the media 32. End cap 35, on the other hand, is an entirely closed end cap 40, i.e., it has no aperture therein so the liquid cannot by-pass the media 32 and avoid being filtered. It is noted that in some instances it may be desirable to provide a by-pass valve arrangement in end cap 35, to allow for selected by-pass flow should the media 32 become undesirably occluded. An end cap having a by-pass valve arrangement therein, used for end cap 35, will typically still be referred to herein as a "closed" end cap, since in normal (non-bypass) use the valve would be closed.

In alternate arrangements, end cap 35 could be configured to be open, with appropriate seal arrangements preventing unfiltered liquid flow into central area 36, if desired.

In still further alternate arrangements, a bypass filter can be provided within assembly 1.

In general, undesirable leakage of liquid flow from annular region 24 (around and not through element 6) directly into central space 36, and then through aperture 39, is prevented, in part, by gasket 15, which, in the instance shown, is compressed between the treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 and a portion of top plate 14. Biasing pressure to ensure a seal at gasket 15 is provided by the biasing arrangement 16, which, under compression, presses between bottom 43 (of housing 5),

and structure 49 which translates into axial pressure against gasket 15, in the direction of axial arrow 50.

Avoidance of undesirable leakage of unfiltered liquid between the internal treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7, and the filter cartridge 6, is provided by gasket 52. Gasket 52, discussed in further detail below, is compressed between the two cartridges 6, 7, as a result of a seal force in the direction of arrow 50, again applied by biasing arrangement 16.

Attention is now directed to the internal treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7. For the particular embodiment shown, the cartridge 7 has a ring or donut shape with an outer side wall 55, an end wall 56 and an inner side wall 57.

In general, the outer side wall 55, end wall 56 and inner side wall 57 define an interior treatment agent receiving volume 59. For the preferred arrangement, the outer side wall 55 is generally cylindrical, with a slight conical shape having a wider bottom end 55a and a narrower top end 55b, although alternatives are possible. The inner wall 57 has a generally funnel shape, defining outside surface 57a, with a wide end 57b adjacent end wall 56 and a narrow opposite end 58, although alternatives are possible.

In the specific embodiment shown, outside surface 57a to inner wall 57, defines a flow channel 57c around which cartridge 7 is positioned, as a ring. Although alternatives are possible, the flow channel 57c is co-axial with a central axis 50a of interior 36 of filter cartridge 6, and is in flow communication with exit flow of filtered liquid from the cartridge 6 outwardly through end cap 34. Filtered liquid from cartridge 6 passes through channel 57c as it exits aperture 25 and assembly 1.

As will be apparent from an evaluation of Fig. 1, the cartridge 7 can be formed from a single, integral, piece of material, either as a molded configuration or from a bent, stamped, or spun piece of metal. The particular cartridge 7 depicted, has a molded construction. For example it may be molded from a glass filled polymer, such as glass filled (for example 33% glass filled) Nylon (for example Nylon 6/6).

The particular cartridge 7 includes an open end 60 at an end opposite end wall 56. With respect to the open end 60, the cartridge 7 may be characterized as "inverted." In this context the term "inverted" is meant to refer to the fact that the open

end 60 of the treatment agent containment and release cartridge 7 is directed toward filter 6 and away from top cover 14. Alternatives are possible.

The particular cartridge 7 comprises a subassembly. That is: (a) it can be manufactured independently of other components within assembly 1; and, (b) it can be inserted, into housing 5, during assembly, as a pre-manufactured component. The cartridge 7 depicted, Fig. 1, is shown having treatment agent 62 therein.

In general, treatment agent storage and release cartridges, such as cartridge 7, characterized herein include an aperture arrangement through which liquid can pass, to encounter contained, immobilized, treatment agent. Such an "aperture arrangement" or "open portion" will be referred to herein as a "diffusion opening." The total open area of the diffusion opening(s) will be referred to herein as the "total diffusion area." In general, one or more diffusion openings can be provided in a variety of ways, including, for example, by aperture arrangement 65 in the outer side wall 55 of the cartridge 7. For the particular treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 depicted, there are no diffusion apertures or openings in the inner side wall 57 (i.e., on the filtered liquid side of gaskets 15, 52). Thus, for the assembly 1 shown, treatment agent can only diffuse into unfiltered liquid.

The particular size, number and location of diffusion openings in outer side wall 55 is a matter of choice, depending upon diffusion affects desired. The issue is discussed in greater detail below, in association with some comments about certain preferred, specific, arrangements.

Still referring to Fig. 1, it is noted that the treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 further includes aperture arrangement 69 in end wall 56. Examples of size and individual aperture arrangements of this aperture arrangement 69, for the embodiment shown, are indicated in Figs. 4 and 6; and are discussed below.

It is anticipated that the cartridge 7 can be used with a gel-type treatment agent that has enough solidity to stay in the cartridge 7, when the cartridge 7 is inverted. For treatment agents with less resistance to flow, a cover, screen or other arrangement could be put across end 60. Alternatively, cartridge 7 could be kept with open end 60 up, until closed by end cap 34. A gel could be set in the cartridge 7, prior to assembly of the assembly 1.

If the consistency of solidity of the treatment agent 62 is perceived to be an issue with respect to undesired or premature flow through aperture arrangements 69 or 65, a screen or other arrangement across these apertures can be used; or, in the case of a gel, a temporary closure can be used as the gel forms. With a gel form of additive 62, in general no significant issue of undesirable flow after gel formation is presented.

It is noted with respect to the embodiment Fig. 1, that the cartridge 7 and the end cap 34 could be made secured to one another. However this will generally not be preferred. A preferred form of engagement, as shown, is provided by having spaced, annular, projections 70, on wall 55 of cartridge 7, and using internal ribs 71 to form a receiving shoulder 72, at an end 73 of outer side wall 55 adjacent element 6, with the shoulder 72 sized to receive an outer region of end cap 34. The projections 70, help keep the cartridge 7 centered.

Inner side wall 57 is configured with inwardly projecting ridges 78 and a portion 79 directed into aperture 39 in end cap 34. The ridges 78 are configured to form a shoulder to engage gasket 52 and to compress same, against end cap 34, to provide a seal therebetween. Gasket 52 includes a lower annular projection 52a, positioned to wrap over or around an end of end cap 34, to secure attachment is shown.

Typical manufacture would involve separate pre-manufacture of the filter cartridge 6 and the treatment agent cartridge 7 (with treatment agent positioned therein). These two components would then be placed into the outer housing 5, in appropriate order, as part of manufacture of the assembly 1. Typical assembly could be to: (1) place the spring 17 in position; (2) place the filter cartridge 6 in position with gasket 52; (3) place the treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 in the housing 5, with gasket 15 in place; (4) place the top plate 14 in position, compressing the internal assembly against the spring 17 while placing cover 18 in positioned using roll seal 21; and, (5) place the gasket 27 in position. Alternatively, the filter cartridge 6 and treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 could be brought into appropriate engagement with one another, with gasket 52 therebetween, and then the other assembly steps undertaken. In another approach, the internal parts could be stacked inverted, and the housing 5 positioned over the inverted stack. In some instances the gaskets can be placed on components, before

those components are positioned in the housing 5. Of course, the particular number and order of steps is not critical, as long as a functional assembly results.

2. Operation.

5

Referring to Fig. 1, surfaces portions of the treatment agent 62, in overlap with aperture arrangements 65, 69, are initial erosion surfaces for treatment agent to diffuse into flow of liquid to be filtered, in annular region 24. Specifically, when liquid flow first enters region 24a by passage through apertures 23, and begins to flow over surfaces of, and around, treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 and filter cartridge 6, the liquid will flow past aperture arrangements 69, 65. This flow will tend to erode the treatment agent immediately inside these aperture arrangements 69, 65 through diffusion of the agent into the liquid. This will be a static-type of diffusion, since the liquid flow, initially, will not be into and through the treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7, but rather will simply be across the outer face of cartridge 7; with some liquid passing into the aperture arrangements 65, 69 enough to encounter the treatment agent 62 but not with an actual current flow passing through the cartridge 7.

In time, as a result of the erosion of the treatment agent 62, flow paths will be opened in interior 59 of treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 between and among various apertures in the aperture arrangements 65, 69. In general, when this occurs a positive current of liquid flow through the treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 can occur. To facilitate such a positive current flow through the storage and release cartridge 7, the following is desirable: a total diffusion area for aperture arrangement 69 which is less than the total diffusion area of exposed apertures in aperture arrangement 65 (in side wall 55) which are in internal flow contact with aperture arrangement 69 as a result of the erosion. The term "internal flow contact" in this context, refers to flow between apertures via one or more flow channels formed and located within interior 59 of cartridge 7.

In general, liquid flow across an aperture creates a vacuum draw from inside of that aperture. Also, in general, the more rapid the liquid flow across an aperture, the greater the vacuum draw.

Referring to Fig. 1, in region 24a, internally of aperture 23 and above wall 56, an open volume for liquid flow is provided. Eventually that same liquid flows into region 24b, around cartridge 7 between cartridge 7, cartridge 6 and side wall 5a. In general, the same volume of liquid, per unit time, passes through regions 24a and 24b, over portions of cartridge 7. However because in the region of 24a a larger cross-sectional volume is provided than in region 24b, flow in region 24a is slower (in terms of flow contact across wall 56), then flow in region 24b (in terms of flow contact across wall 55). Thus, suction draw caused by liquid flow across an aperture in side wall 55 is greater than suction draw by flow across apertures in end wall 56.

Referring to Fig. 3, an internal flow path between aperture arrangement 69 and apertures of aperture arrangement 65, in particular apertures 65b of aperture arrangement 65a will be generated as a result of erosion. When this occurs, liquid flow from individual apertures 69a of aperture arrangement 69 into cartridge 7 and then outwardly through individual apertures 65b of aperture arrangement 65a will be generated. Because: (a) preferably the total diffusion area of aperture arrangement 65a is greater than the total diffusion area of aperture arrangement 69; and (b) the annular liquid flow across aperture arrangement 65a is preferably faster than across aperture arrangement 69, this internal flow direction will generally be into aperture arrangement 69 and out of aperture arrangement 65, in particular out of aperture arrangement 65a.

This internal dynamic flow at least initially results in greater diffusion rate of treatment agent within the cartridge 7, into the liquid flow, then the initial "static" erosion. Further erosion will occur, until aperture arrangement 65c, having individual apertures 65d, has also been exposed to a flow path from aperture arrangement 69. This will allow dynamic flow of liquid into apertures 69a and out of apertures 65d. Indeed, the slight conical shape of side wall 55 is described herein, flow across aperture arrangement 65c will be even faster than flow across aperture arrangement 65a, since the outer annulus 24b will be smaller in cross-section, in this region, Fig. 1.

It is noted that the diffusion rate will be somewhat variable, as erosion occurs and the amount and shape of the treatment agent 62 changes. However, in general terms (for typical arrangements), diffusion will accelerate when the arrangement becomes

configured (as a result of erosion) for dynamic fluid flow through the cartridge 7, as opposed to simply a static diffusion from internally of the cartridge 7 to externally.

In Figs. 3 and 4, the treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 is depicted. For convenience the cartridge 7 is shown without treatment agent therein.

- 5 Referring to Fig. 3, for the particular example shown, five spaced apertures 69a in aperture arrangement 69 are used, although alternatives are possible. Typically 3-7 (preferably evenly) spaced apertures 69a will be used.

- In addition ten, typically 6-14, (preferably evenly) spaced apertures 65b, and ten (typically 6-14) spaced (preferably evenly spaced) apertures 65d are used in
10 aperture arrangements 65a and 65c, although alternatives are possible. For the example shown, the size of apertures 65b, 65d and 69a are all about the same, although alternatives are possible. The configuration used ensures that there is generally about twice the total diffusion area for each of arrangements 65a, 65c than arrangement 69. This helps ensure the desirable level of, and direction of, dynamic current flow.

- 15 The number of, and size of, apertures can be selected for any particular system, depending upon the amount of treatment agent release that is desirable. It is noted that apertures 65b and 65d can be merged into one another, as single large apertures, with a variety of alternate shapes to accomplish the desired results.

- In general, it is desirable that the rate of treatment agent release into a
20 system such as a lubricating oil system, is relatively slow during initial installation of the assembly 1. This is because installation of the assembly 1 will generally be concurrent with an oil change. Thus, the oil would not yet have been subject, as a result of engine operation, to undesirable compositional change. In general, the cartridge 7 is preferably configured to only allow a relatively slow amount of treatment agent release primarily
25 through static diffusion process, during the initial operation of the equipment under these conditions, at least up to about the first 200 hours of operation (more preferably at least the first 250 hours of operation, sometimes up to the first 300 hours of operation), for a typical diesel engine in a vehicle such as a truck. Preferably the apertures are positioned such that a dynamic flow operation will become substantial at the latest by about 350
30 hours of operation and in some instances as early as 250-300 hours operation, leading to an accelerated rate of treatment agent release into the system.

By the above, it is meant that preferably there is little dynamic flow operation if any, prior to at least 200 hours of operation with the assembly, but there is substantial dynamic flow operation by at the latest 350 hours of operation. The particular mode of operation in between these two limits, is a matter of choice and design.

- 5 Typically the arrangement will be configured for primarily static flow operation at least up until about 250 hours of operation and in some instances up to about 300 hours of operation.

For the particular arrangement 1 depicted in Figs. 1-6, the following dimensions were utilized for the example unit:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 10 | 1. Outside diameter of housing 5, 118 mm; |
| | 2. Axial length of housing, 260 mm; |
| | 3. Axial length of cartridge 6, 161 mm; |
| | 4. Axial length of treatment agent storage and release cartridge between end cap 34 and end wall 56, 60.5 mm; |
| 15 | 5. Larger outside diameter of wall 55 of cartridge 7, not including ribs 70, at end 55a, 11.5 mm; |
| | 6. Smaller outside diameter of wall 55 at end 55b, 109.1 mm; |
| | 7. Inside diameter of end 56, 51 mm; |
| | 8. Inside diameter of end 58, 44.8 mm. |
| 20 | 9. Size of apertures in aperture arrangement 69, 5.0 mm in diameter; and, |
| | 10. The size of apertures in aperture arrangement 65, 5.0 mm in diameter. |

- 25 Typically and preferably the apertures in aperture arrangement 69 will not be smaller than 1 mm in diameter, and typically they will be at least 3 mm in diameter, most preferably at least 5 mm in diameter. Further there will typically and preferably in total diffusion area size of at least 40 sq. mm. or larger. Preferred sizes are provided below.

- 30 Whether the apertures in aperture arrangement 69 are circular or not, preferably each is at least 1 sq. mm in size, more preferably at least 8 sq. mm in size,

most preferably at least 15 sq. mm in size. Most preferably there are at least two apertures in aperture arrangement 69.

With respect to the apertures in aperture arrangement 65, if round preferably each aperture is at least 1 mm in diameter, more preferably at least 3 mm in diameter, most preferably 5 mm or more. Preferably the area of each, whether round or otherwise, is at least 1 sq. mm, more preferably at least 8 sq. mm, most preferably at least 15 sq. mm. Preferred sizes, numbers and patterns are provided herein.

Preferably apertures 65a of aperture arrangement 65a are located spaced from end 55b and end wall 56 a distance within 25% of an axial length of treatment agent storage and release cartridge 7 (i.e., approximately a length of wall 55). Preferably apertures 65b of aperture arrangement 65 are located within 20% of this distance from end 55b (or end wall 56).

Preferably apertures 65d of aperture arrangement 65c are located at least 60% of an axial length of cartridge 7 (i.e., a length of side wall 55), from end wall 56, most preferably at least 70% of this length.

Preferably the aperture arrangement 69 has a total cross-sectional area of at least 55 sq. mm, typically 55 sq. mm - 120 sq. mm. Preferably the total diffusion area of aperture arrangement 65a is at least 50% greater than this, most preferably at least about 100% greater than this. Similarly, preferably a total diffusion area of aperture arrangement 65c is at least 50% greater than the total aperture area of aperture arrangement 69, most preferably at least about 100% greater. Preferably the total aperture area or diffusion area of apertures in side wall 55 is at least 50% greater than, often at least 100% greater than, and typically 100% - 200% greater than, a total diffusion area apertures and end wall 56.

The remaining dimensions would be as appropriate, to provide the arrangement of Fig. 1.

The dimensions, and relative dimensions, of course, can be changed. The particular dimensions chosen, were for utilization of the arrangement with a 600 hp diesel engine in a class 8 truck, to accomplish substantially only static flow operation up to at least about 300 hours of operation and with substantial dynamic flow operation starting by 350 hours of operation at the latest.

B. The Embodiment of Figs. 7 and 8.

Attention is now directed to the embodiment of Figs. 7 and 8, which is
5 alternate configuration for the treatment agent storage and release cartridge used.
Referring to Fig. 7, assembly 210 is depicted having a housing 211 defining internal
volume 212. Internally received are a filter cartridge 216 and a treatment agent and
release cartridge 217. In general the cartridge 216 may be analogous to cartridge 6, Figs.
1-6. Assembly 210 further includes a top plate 220 secured in place by a cover 221
10 attached to housing 211 at roll seam 222. The top plate 220 includes a threaded aperture
225 and inlet flow apertures 226. The assembly 210 further includes gasket 227
positioned on cover 221.

Internal gasket 230 is positioned between filter cartridge 216 and
treatment agent storage and release cartridge 217. Gasket 231 provides for sealing
15 between treatment agent storage and release cartridge 217 and top plate 220. Biasing to
preserve seal is provided by biasing mechanism 232 (in this instance spring 233).

In general, analogously positioned and shaped parts in Fig. 7, to those in
Fig. 1, to perform analogous functions. The focus of attention here is on a modification
in the internal configuration of the treatment agent storage and release cartridge 217.

20 Referring to Fig. 7, the treatment agent storage and release cartridge 217
includes outer side wall 240, end wall 241 and inner side wall 242. In outer side wall
240, cartridge 217 includes aperture arrangements 245a and 245b analogously to aperture
arrangements 65a and 65c, Fig. 1.

In end wall 241 aperture arrangement 249 is positioned, analogous to
25 aperture arrangement 69, Fig. 1. However, around some, and typically around each,
aperture in aperture arrangement 249 an inlet stem 250 is provided, which causes liquid
flow into the interior 217a of cartridge 217, from an associated aperture, to extend to a
location 251 at the same axial (or vertical) height as aperture arrangement 245a, or below
it, before the liquid from aperture 249 can flow toward aperture 245a. This would help
30 ensure a liquid flow path into a center portion of treatment agent stored within volume
217a, before the liquid can exit through apertures 245a. This can cause a desirable affect

on treatment agent diffusion, during operation. More particularly, the inlet stem 250, as it is lengthened, slows the rate of diffusion of the additive (in a static operation) therethrough. This will slow the rate at which dynamic flow operation is initiated.

Modifying the length of diameter of the inlet stem 250 provides for control over the time the filter is in static flow condition versus dynamic flow condition.

In Fig. 8, a region of the assembly shown in Fig. 7, in the vicinity of stem 250, is shown enlarged, for convenient viewing.

III. General Observations

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It is noted that for the particular arrangement shown in Figs. 1-8, as depicted in Figs. 1 and 7 specifically, the treatment agent storage and release cartridge (7, 217) in each case is positioned above an associated filter cartridge (6, 216). This is a preferred orientation if, when installed, the assemblies (1, 210) are mounted in the orientation shown. That is, it is generally preferred that a treatment agent be held above the filter cartridge, so that gravity helps move the treatment agent, which is generally more dense than the liquid. If the assembly 1 is configured to be installed inverted relative to the orientation of Figs. 1 and 7, an inverted orientation of the filter cartridge storage and release arrangement, relative to the filter cartridge, can be used, if desired.

20

In general terms, a liquid filter arrangement is provided which includes a housing, an internally received filter cartridge and an internally received treatment agent storage and release cartridge. The preferred treatment agent storage and release cartridge is configured to have a diffusion aperture arrangement providing for a first static diffusion operation and a second dynamic flow diffusion operation. For the particular embodiment provided, this is done by having a treatment agent storage and release cartridge include an end wall with a first aperture arrangement in it, and a sidewall with a second aperture arrangement in it. The aperture arrangement in the end wall preferably has a smaller total diffusion area, than the aperture arrangement in the side wall. A particular example is provided in which, in the end wall, a plurality of spaced apertures, preferably at least 3 and typically 4-7 are provided in a ring circular pattern. Further, for the preferred arrangements shown, the second aperture arrangement in the side wall,

30

comprises two sets of apertures spaced axially, each set having a larger total diffusion area than the set of diffusion apertures in the end wall.

A particular arrangement is shown in which, positioned between the treatment agent storage and release cartridge, and an inlet for the filter assembly, an inlet
5 volume is provided with a first cross-sectional area; and, around the outside of the treatment agent storage and release cartridge, and the filter cartridge, an annulus is provided with the second cross-sectional area; typically the first cross-sectional area being larger than the second, so that flow across aperture arrangement 65 will be faster than flow across aperture arrangement 69.

10 In an example arrangement provided, the treatment agent storage and release cartridge includes a ring construction with an outer side wall, an inner side wall and an end wall between the outer and inner side walls.

The arrangement can be configured as a spin-on housing, or the internal components can be assembled as bowl/cartridge arrangement.

15 A typical, useable total diffusion area for the apertures in the end wall of the treatment agent storage and release cartridge, for use with a lubricating oil arrangement, will be at least 55 sq. mm, typically 55 to 120 sq. mm. A typical total diffusion area for an aperture arrangement in the outer side wall, will be at least 50% larger (typically at least 100% larger), than the total diffusion area of the aperture
20 arrangement in the end wall. Thus, typically the side wall total diffusion area is at least 82 sq. mm, typically at least 110 sq. mm.

In general, the preferred internally received treatment agent storage and release cartridge may be characterized as having a diffusion arrangement providing for:
25 initial static diffusion operation; and, later a dynamic flow diffusion operation. It is noted that some advantage could be provided by providing the cartridge 7 such that there is at all times a dynamic flow operation therethrough. For the arrangement of Fig. 1, this could be facilitated by having the treatment agent 62, initially, not cover apertures 65b.

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid filter arrangement comprising:
 - (a) a housing;
 - (b) an internally received filter cartridge; and
 - (c) an internally received treatment agent storage and release cartridge; the treatment agent storage and release cartridge having a diffusion aperture arrangement providing for:
 - (i) an initial static flow diffusion operation; and
 - (ii) a later dynamic flow diffusion operation.
2. A liquid filter arrangement according to claim 1 wherein:
 - (a) the housing, the internally received filter cartridge and the internally received treatment agent storage and release cartridge are configured to define an inlet flow path, for liquid to be filtered, at a location across an end wall of the treatment agent storage and release cartridge and then across a side wall of the treatment agent storage and release cartridge and the filter cartridge.
3. A liquid filter arrangement according to claim 2 wherein:
 - (a) the treatment agent storage and release cartridge has an outer side wall, an inner side wall and an end wall between the outer and inner side walls;
 - (i) the end wall having a flow aperture arrangement therethrough; and
 - (ii) the outer side wall having a flow aperture arrangement therethrough;
 - (iii) a total diffusion area of the flow aperture arrangement in the side wall being at least 50% greater than a total diffusion area of the flow aperture arrangement in the end wall.

4. A liquid filter arrangement according to claim 3 including:
 - (a) a top plate with an annular flow inlet arrangement; and a central flow exit; and,
 - (b) a first gasket arrangement positioned adjacent the top plate at a location between the annular flow inlet arrangement and the central flow outlet;
 - (c) the treatment agent storage and release cartridge being oriented with the end wall adjacent the gasket arrangement; and
 - (d) the treatment agent storage and release arrangement positioned being between the top plate and the filter cartridge.
5. A liquid filter arrangement according to claim 3 wherein:
 - (a) the housing is configured as a spin on filter housing.
6. A liquid filter arrangement according to claim 3 wherein:
 - (a) the end wall of the storage and release cartridge includes a set of flow apertures therein with a total diffusion area of at least 55 sq. mm; and,
 - (b) the outer side wall of the storage and release cartridge includes a first set of apertures therein;
 - (i) each aperture in the first set of apertures being positioned within a distance of 25% of an axial length of the storage and release cartridge from the end wall;
 - (ii) the first set of apertures in the outer side wall having a total diffusion area of at least 82 sq. mm; and a total diffusion area at least 50% larger than the total diffusion area of the set of flow apertures in the end wall.
7. A liquid filter arrangement according to claim 6 wherein:
 - (a) the outer side wall of the storage and release cartridge includes a second set of apertures therein;

- (i) each aperture of the second set of apertures being positioned a distance of at least 60% of a total axial length of the storage and release cartridge from the end wall; and
- (ii) the second set of apertures in the outer side wall having a total diffusion area of at least 82 sq. mm, and a total diffusion area at least 50% larger than a total diffusion area of the set of the apertures in the end wall.

ABSTRACT

A liquid filter arrangement including an internally received treatment agent storage and release cartridge is provided. The assembly is configured for diffusion
5 of the treatment agent from the treatment agent storage and release cartridge, into liquid flowing through the filter arrangement. A particular arrangement shown is configured which provides for a dynamic type of liquid flow providing a current directed through the treatment agent storage and release cartridge. In the preferred arrangements, an initial static type of flow followed by later dynamic flow, is provided. Alternatives, methods of
10 assembly and descriptions of use are provided.

FIG. 1

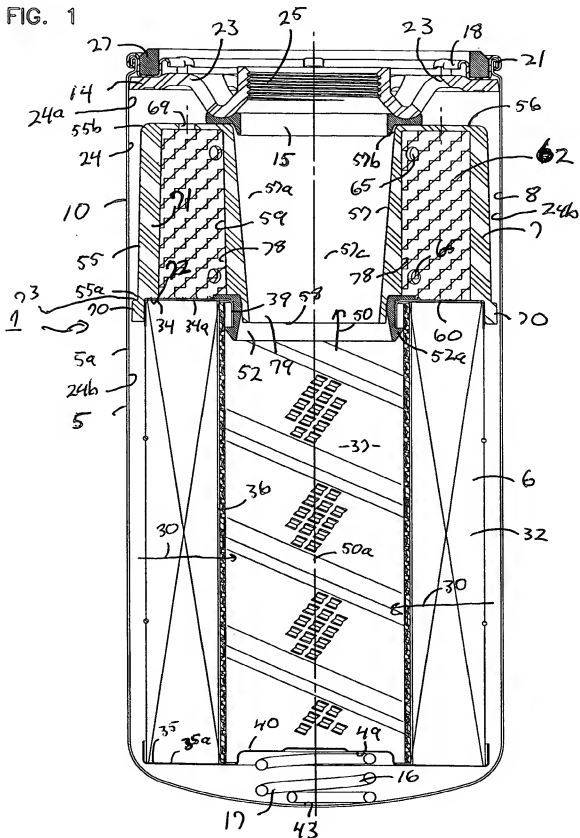


FIG. 2

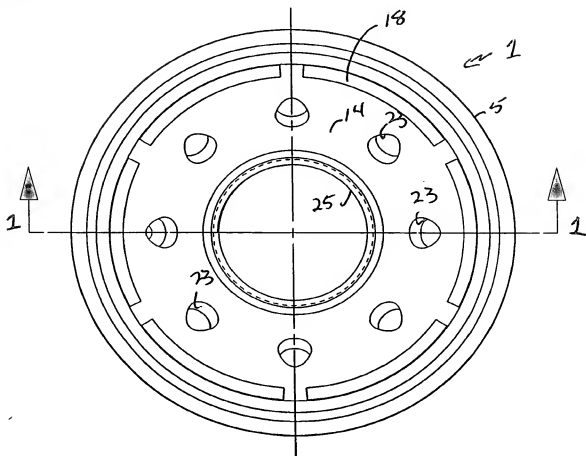


FIG. 3

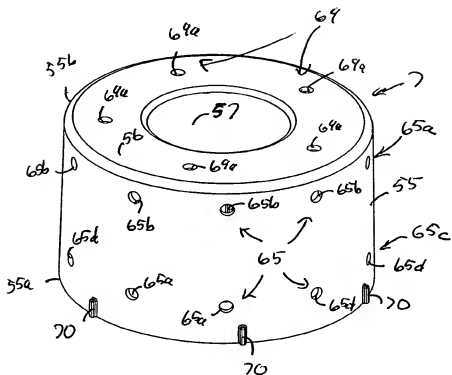


FIG. 4

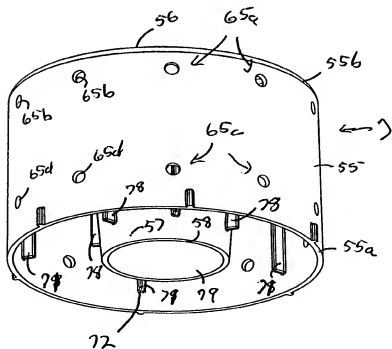


FIG. 5

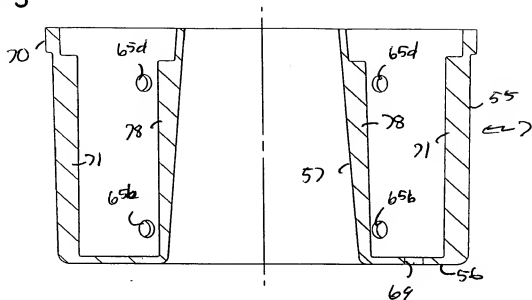


FIG. 6

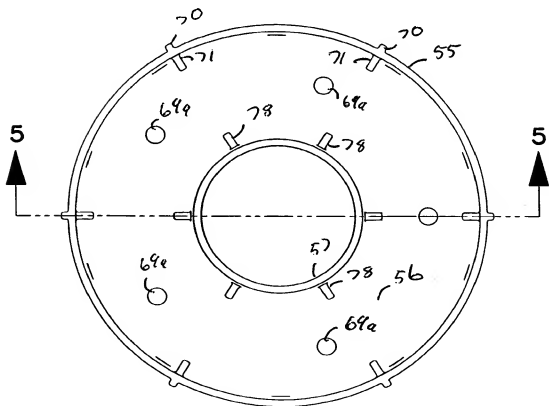


FIG. 7

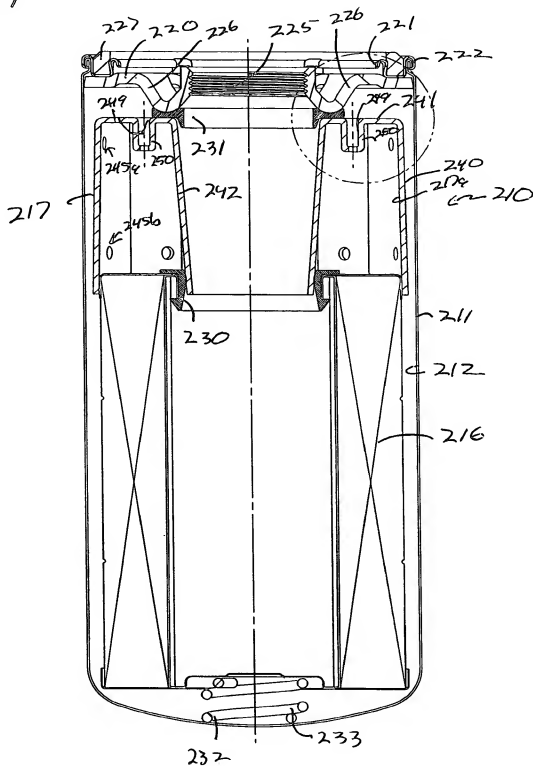


FIG. 8

